

ciple of taxation and representation should go hand in hand. Thus the income of the Council for 1889 was £8,508, and of this sum £6,820 was derived from the fees paid by Doctors for the registering of their diplomas and degrees (see financial statement in *Medical Register*). It has been said that the expenditure of the Council is excessive. I do not think so. All the Members attending are paid five guineas per diem. Non-residents in London are paid £1 a day for hotel expenses, while the Members from Ireland and Scotland receive five guineas for two days' travelling. The Council generally has two yearly sessions, lasting for a total of about seven and a-half days. It has been pointed out that a Council session costs twenty-three shillings per minute, but it is to be remembered that a great portion of the work is done by the Executive and Educational Committees free. Moreover, when one remembers the professional status of the Members of Council we at once see that they must attend the meetings at a great financial loss to themselves. It is to be regretted that the Council has not more funds at its disposal. In 1889 it spent £1,196 in the inspection of examinations of the different licensing bodies, and the pity is that it could not afford to spend five times as much. I do, however, feel that the elected Representatives of the twenty Examining Bodies should be paid by the Universities and Colleges which elect them, and not out of the fees paid by Doctors for Registration. Further, surely the five nominees of the Privy Council should be paid by the Government which they represent. Such an alteration would require a new Act of Parliament, whereas the proposed increase in the number of direct Representatives is already provided for by the Medical Act; it requires only to be put into operation.

I would suggest that when the Medical Societies and branches of the British Medical Association are petitioning for an improvement in the training of Students in Midwifery, they also pass resolutions calling upon the Medical Council to put the above section of the Medical Act of 1886 into force, and thus give the twenty-nine thousand Practitioners a full voice in advising as to the educational requirements of Students, for surely they come more in touch with the young Doctor just qualified than those who deliver lectures. It is our right, and I feel certain we shall not be stupid enough to abuse the privilege. It may be said there are no funds wherewith to pay more D.Rs. But there are funds, and I feel certain that Practitioners would willingly provide a fund for the payment of D.R.'s expenses. Would not the Government make a yearly grant to the Council? It gives large sums of money towards other educational and examining bodies.

As a further incentive to immediate action I would call attention to two points: First, that the election of five Direct Representatives takes place in November, 1891, and that if we bring pressure to bear on the Medical Council, and on the Privy Council through our Members of Parliament, we may be then able to elect eight representatives; and secondly, that the momentous question of improvement in the educational standard of Students in Midwifery be settled before any Midwives Registration Bill is passed, else if such a Bill be passed it will rob Students of those extra confinement cases, which they would be called upon to attend if the Medical Council carry out our wishes, it being evident that if Pupil Midwives are to be trained, they will absorb a considerable number of those lying-in cases necessary for the more perfect training of Students.

It has been said that some Members of the Medical Council wish to banish Midwifery from the Medical Practitioner's training and calling, just as the practice of dentistry and dispensing have been given away. The triple qualification in Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery was secured by the Medical Act of 1886, and it is our fault if, after Midwifery has been placed on the same level as Medicine and Surgery, we lose our hold over it. Let us be just to our profession and to each other, for whatever gives educational advantages

to the Practitioner is for the lasting benefit of the public, for lying-in women and infants, and for the national health. The converse will also be true.

A copy of the Medical Act, 1886 (price sixpence), may be had from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, London.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

ROBT. R. RENTOUL, M.D., M.R.C.S.,
Fellow Obstetrical Society.
Liverpool.

BADGE OR NO BADGE?

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Dear Sir,—It appears to my mind that this question should either be removed from the misty regions of speculation to some solid basis of fact or dropped altogether.

The matter lies in the hands of the Members of the B.N.A. themselves, and our metropolitan sisters are the ones to take it up. Why not discuss the question amongst themselves at headquarters? From a sort of Committee of Inquiry formulate their views, take the opinions of Members on them, say what they want and what they mean, and invite their provincial sisters to send in their views *written* out and with name and address attached. I entertain but little doubt that Mr. Editor will allow them to put their programme into our *Record*. When votes are taken, and if the "Ayes" have it, they must petition the Council. I dare say some member of that body would introduce that document properly signed and attested at one of the quarterly meetings.

The editorial suggestion of medals in gold, silver, or bronze is entitled to weighty consideration; but permit me, Sir, to observe, on the other side, that a medal is *not* a badge, but a mark of distinction that has been earned or won by the recipient, and personal to him or her. A badge is a bond of union or fellowship common to all members of any particular body of individuals, conferring no special distinction upon one member more than another, and worn by all alike. For instance, a soldier wears his regimental badge upon his cap; it marks the *corps* to which he belongs, and binds him in honour to it. He wears his medals on his breast; they are marks of personal distinction, and have nothing to do with his comrades-in-arms.

On somewhat similar lines I consider our Association should have a seal—an outward and visible sign of the great principles it upholds; the badge, *identical* in design, should be a bond of union amongst members, marking us as steadfast to each other, and true to the great Association to which we all belong, and zealous ever for the honour of our art and the well-being of each other.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

JUSTITIA.

[Our columns are quite at the disposal of our readers on this matter.—ED.]

— NOTICES. —

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Books, Pamphlets, &c., for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of the NURSING RECORD, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. The Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS. unless accompanied with a sufficiently stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be strictly adhered to, no notice will be taken of such communications.

Communications from all parts of the country are cordially invited, and liberal arrangements are made for reprints of original articles, and for such illustrations as serve to increase their value or interest. Reports of Nursing Vacancies, Appointments, Meetings of Societies, &c., and Newspapers, &c., containing (marked) accounts of matters of local or personal interest or importance, will be gladly received. Correspondence upon all subjects associated with Nursing specially invited.

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